

**C O N T E M P O R A R Y**  
DANCE ACADEMY

**2026-2027 Season: Level Explanation**

**FAST TRACK AUDITIONS!**

Due to the success and rapid growth of our Fast Track Program, we will be holding our annual “Fast Track Auditions” for the 2026/2027 Season on Tuesday May 19th and Wednesday, May 20th. This does mean that we will be making cuts if necessary due to the number of students interested in Fast Track, but we will counter that with more recreational classes available for those who are wanting more dance as well as our “Fast Track Prep” and “Rec Plus” programs that are intended to bridge the gap between Recreational and Fast Track! If Fast Track is something that your dancer is interested in, please SAVE THE DATES!

**Tuesday, May 19th**

4:00-5:00pm- Ages 9-11

5:00-6:15pm- Ages 12-13

**Wednesday, May 20th**

4:45-6:45pm- Ages 14+

**\*\*All ages as of September 1st, 2026**

(Ex: My dancer turns 12 on June 2nd - They should come on 5/20 at 4:45pm)

**Location:**

2531 S Shields St #2A

Dancers should check in 15-30 minutes prior to their audition time above at “Main Studio” and we will walk them over to our “Green Studio” at the start of their audition time. Dancers should expect to start with a Ballet class (please bring pointe shoes if you have them) and for Dancers Ages 14+ a Contemporary and Pointe portion will be included. Dancers should come in their usual ballet attire and they do not need to have anything prepared for this audition.

Please fill out the CDA Fast Track Audition Form prior to auditions on May 19th!

## **CDA Level Description 2026/2027**

Here at CDA, our class leveling system is intended for your dancers to get the most out of their class time every time they walk in the studio doors. We wish to provide a superior service, with knowledgeable and diverse staff, all in a family oriented atmosphere. We will have two tracks, Recreational, and Fast Track (FT). Please make sure to read through the whole document to decide which track is best for your dancer.

**\*\*NOTE:** Jazz, Lyrical, Hip Hop, and Tap levels correspond directly with their Ballet Level listed above.

**Students must be enrolled in a Ballet class to take everything except Hip Hop**

### **1) Recreational Track**

The recreational track will consist of 6-7 levels. These levels will be based more on level rather than age. Recreational classes will meet 1-3 times a week and is for dancers who like to dance, but who don't necessarily have a desire for a career in dance (or are too young to really know). Dancers will receive good training and be held up to a certain standard, but in a more "laid-back" setting. We know not everyone wants to be professional dancers or dance in college, but that doesn't mean we can't inspire them to find a love of art, stay active, express themselves, and be in a fun environment surrounded by friends.

-Ballet is required for everything except Hip-Hop

-Still have the option to add classes such as Tap, Jazz, Contemporary/Lyrical, Pointe, Pom, Dance Team Technique, and Hip-Hop

-Tuition will be based upon the number of hours per week your dancer takes (see website for specific rates)

- Tiny Tots (Ages 2-5)
- Level 1-3 or "Ruby" (Ages 5-8)
- Level 4-5 or "Emerald" (Ages 9-11)
- Level 6 or "Sapphire" and Rec + (Ages 12+)
- Adult Class (Ages 18+)

**\*\*All ages as of September 1st, 2026**

Intended to bridge the gap between Recreational and Fast Track, we have added two levels called "Fast Track Prep" and "Rec +". Both of these levels require 2x/week of Ballet and 1x/week of Jazz/Contemporary. Placement class is required.

- Fast Track Prep (Ages 7-10)
- Rec Plus (Ages 12+)

Recreational Classes Offered:

- Ballet
- Tap
- Jazz
- Lyrical
- Contemporary
- Hip Hop
- Pom
- Dance Team Technique
- Adult Ballet

**\*\*All current students who were registered for our 2025/2026 season will receive level placements in May, and registration for the 2026/2027 Season will open up in June! We will be sure to email out when Registration is LIVE! If you are new to CDA, please email us at [info@contemporarydanceacademy.com](mailto:info@contemporarydanceacademy.com) for a class recommendation or to schedule a placement class\*\***

## **2) Fast Track**

Going into our 13th year of our Fast Track Program, it has proven to be top notch in preparing dancers for their future in the dance industry. This is a pre professional program with the goal of producing dancers who are talented in many styles of dance and to teach them the skills to be able to excel in the professional or collegiate world. With this comes a higher level of instruction, as well as higher expectations of the dancers and their dedication. **DANCERS MUST ATTEND THE FAST TRACK AUDITION ON MAY 19TH OR 20TH IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FAST TRACK!**

### **Beginning Fast Track**

Classes will range from 1-1.5 hours

- Ballet 3x/week
- Contemporary 1x/week
- Jazz 1x/week
- Recreational Tap and Hip Hop classes can be added (optional)

TOTAL OF 5-6 CLASSES/WEEK

Base Tuition: \$350-\$375/month

### **Intermediate Fast Track**

Classes will range from 1-1.5 hours

- Ballet 3x/week
- Contemporary 1x/week
- Jazz 1x/week
- Pointe 1x/week (Must have passed Pointe exam in May)
- Optional "Fusion" Class (Leaps and Turns, Strengthening, etc) 1x/week (optional)
- Fast Track Tap 1x/week (optional)

TOTAL OF 5-8 CLASSES/WEEK

Base Tuition: \$375-400/month

### **Advanced Fast Track**

Classes will range from 1-2 hours

- Ballet 4x/week
- Contemporary 1x/week
- Modern 1x/week
- Pointe Class 1x/week
- Optional "Fusion" Class (Leaps and Turns, Strengthening, etc) 1x/week (optional)
- Fast Track Tap 1x/week (optional)

TOTAL OF 7-9 CLASSES/WEEK

Base Tuition: \$475-\$500/month

Please note that Fast Track classes will be held Mon-Fri and dancers are required to attend Saturday rehearsals for Nutcracker (September-December) and for Spring Production (March-May)

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **Q: What is the difference between Recreational and Fast Track?**

**A:** The difference between Recreational and Fast Track will be the overall purpose of the classes. Recreational will work to teach dancers the basics of all kinds of dance, inspire them to be creative outside of a school setting, and have fun! The classes stick to a syllabus and dancers are still required to have proper etiquette, uniform, etc. The purpose of the Fast Track is to prepare dancers for a career in dance. With this comes discipline, hard work, and dedication. Fast track dancers will be held to a higher standard when it comes to coursework, will only be allowed a certain amount of absences per semester, and will be required to participate in both our Winter and Spring Productions as well as participate in Saturday Rehearsals during the season.

**Q: What if my dancer can't meet the requirements of Fast Track? Can you switch from recreational to fast track or vice versa?**

**A:** Recreational and Fast Track will be a one year commitment for the 2026-2027 season and both dancers and parents will be required to sign a contract for Fast Track. If your dancer is in the Recreational track and decides they want to give Fast Track a try, or vice versa, they may do so at the beginning of the season. We reserve the right to withdraw any dancer from the Fast Track program if they are not able to fulfill the requirements. These requirements will consist of the required classes, appropriate attendance, dress code, attitude, work ethic etc.

**Q: What if my students' grades start to fall because of the commitment to fast track?**

**A:** Here at CDA, we know education comes first and foremost. We are understanding of this and are more than willing to work with students to keep them dancing and doing well in school. These situations will be addressed on a case-to-case basis. We know it is hard to balance school, and activities, but don't want them to miss out on opportunities that come with being involved in dance.

**Q: Will classes for fast track be on Saturdays, or Sundays?**

**A:** No, Fast Track classes will run Mon-Fri like regular classes. However, Fast Track Dancers are required to participate in Clara and the Nutcracker and our Spring Production and will need to be available for Saturday rehearsals during the months of September-December and March-May. If your dancer decides to audition for our Company, Friday rehearsals may be required as well, but Company is an extra "add on" and not required as a part of Fast Track.

**Q: Will tuition be more for fast track than recreational?**

**A:** Tuition will increase because of the number of hours your dancer will be receiving and the quality of the instruction. We want to provide these dancers with the best possible training at a competitive and reasonable cost.

**Q: Why is my dancer only being placed into a ballet level?**

**A:** We are firm believers in the fact that ballet is the foundation of all dance styles. This is why we require ballet first and foremost for all of our dancers. Jazz, Lyrical, etc. level placement will be based off of the ballet placement. For example: If your dancer is placed in Level 3 Ballet, he/she would take Level 3 jazz. The only class that doesn't require ballet will be Hip Hop.

**Q: What is "Fast Track Prep" and "Rec Plus"?**

**A:** Both "Fast Track Prep" and "Rec Plus" programs are intended to bridge the gap between the Recreational and Fast Track program. It can be a lot to jump from 1-2 classes per week to 5+ classes per week, so a lot of times we suggest a dancer spends a year in one of these programs before making the jump to Fast Track. Fast Track Prep is intended for dancers ages 7-10 and will require two days a week of Ballet and one day a week of Jazz/Contemporary. Rec Plus is for Dancers Ages 12+ and will require two days a week of Ballet, Pointe (if applicable) and one day a week of Contemporary. Dancers in "Fast Track Prep" and "Rec Plus" can also still take recreational Tap, Hip Hop, Dance Team Technique and other a la carte classes as additional add on classes. A placement class is required for these levels.

As always, please feel free to email [info@contemporarydanceacademy.com](mailto:info@contemporarydanceacademy.com) if you have any questions at all. We take level placements very seriously and are here to answer questions and provide feedback if requested. We appreciate your continued support of CDA and hope to have each and every one of you as a part of our exciting upcoming 2026-2027 Season!

Thanks,

*Brielle Dighero*

Brielle Dighero  
Executive Director/Owner